



John F. Sturm
President and CEO

November 14, 2003

The Honorable William Thomas
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

As the American Jobs Creation Act of 2003 moves toward consideration in the House of Representatives, I would like to express my appreciation to you and the committee for including provisions that would help American businesses, including the newspaper industry, and give our nation's economy an important boost. The Newspaper Association of America (NAA) represents approximately 2000 newspapers accounting for nearly 90 percent of the daily circulation in the United States. While most NAA members are dailies, many weekly newspapers are also members. Importantly, 60 percent of our members serve small to medium sized markets with daily circulations of less than 25,000.

Reducing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 32 percent for U. S. manufacturing and production operations would benefit most newspaper operations. In addition, the across the board tax rate cut to a top corporate rate of 32 percent for all corporations with less than \$20 million of taxable income as well as extending the Section 179 expensing provision for two years would benefit our members who serve small to medium sized markets. As you know, when taxes are reduced, businesses have additional funds to create jobs and expand their operations.

This legislation is coming at a critical time as, after a difficult couple of years, businesses are beginning to see a brighter economic picture. We commend your effort and thank you for including these provisions for American businesses. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,

cc: House Leadership
Ways and Means Committee members

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